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# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1896.

HUXLEY AND HIS WORK.\*

## I.

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THE history of scientific progress has been marked by a few periods of intellectual fermentation when great bounds have been taken forwards and a complete revolution ensued. Very few have been such, but in one the name of Huxley must be ever conspicuous. It was as a lieutenant of the organizer of that revolution that he appeared, but unquestionably without him it would have been long delayed, and it was through his brilliant powers of exposition that the peoples of the English speaking lineage soon learned to understand, to some extent, what evolution was and, learning, to accept it.

On the 4th of May, 1825, was born the infant Huxley, in due course christened Thomas Henry. "It was," Huxley himself has remarked, "a curious chance that my parents should have fixed for my usual denomination upon the name of that particular apostle with whom I have always felt most sympathy." In his physical and mental peculiarities, he was completely the 'son of his mother,' whose most distinguishing characteristic was 'rapidity of thought;' that characteristic Huxley claimed to have been passed on to him 'in full strength,' and to have often 'stood him in good stead,' and to it he was

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\* A memorial address given on January 14th before the Scientific Societies of Washington.